



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
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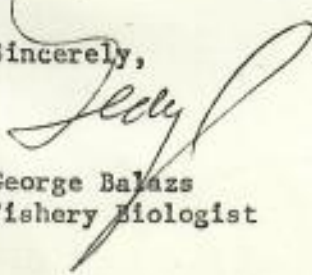
Dear Rob:

Your mention the other day of Sheila and a Bishop Museum Archaeologist going to Necker this summer reminded me of the following. While on Necker I documented old ordnance both partially buried in the ground and resting on the surface. For example, a fully intact 500lb bomb sits precariously on the peak at the northeastern end of the island. According to EOD Navy people that I contacted, it could still conceivably go off. In other areas, particularly Flagpole Hill, the tail portions of presumably bombs and rockets are just visibly at the surface.

I want to once again call all of this to the attention of Fish and Wildlife Service so that proper measures can be instituted to protect visiting researchers and others. This hazard was formally pointed out in my 1977 report on Necker entitled "Ecological aspects of green turtles at Necker Island", a copy of which should be in your files. At an earlier date, the recording and reporting of bombs in the waters immediately surrounding Necker Island were carried out by myself, Skip Naftel and Leighton Taylor.

I hope that the present reiteration of this information will be useful to your management program for the Refuge.

Sincerely,


George Balazs
Fishery Biologist

cc Bill Gilmartin